

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Rules and Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, today announced \$175,500 in federal funds that have been awarded to arts groups in Western New York that will directly benefit local writers, musicians, dancers and artists.

"I'm so pleased to see federal funds going to Western New York's talented musicians, dancers, writers and artists," said Slaughter. "The arts deserve our full support and I am proud to have fought for fully funding these vital programs around the country. The arts are a very positive stimulator of local economies and generate billions in economic activity annually. The arts are also an incredible educational tool, and have the ability to uniquely enrich our lives and strengthen our cultural diversity."

In Rochester, funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was awarded to BOA Editions, Garth Fagan Dance, Inc., Genesee Street Corporation, the George Eastman House, Geva Theatre Center, the Rochester Philharmonic and University of Rochester.

In Buffalo, NEA awards were today announced for Buffalo Media Resources, Inc. and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

More information on each grant is included in the chart below.

The funding will be provided by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts as part of their first major round of FY 2010 grants. These matching grants help support projects that involve the creation and presentation of artistically excellent work – both new and established. Projects include commissions, residencies, rehearsals, workshops, performances, exhibitions, publications, festivals, training programs and literature fellowships.

This round awards over \$24 million, including nearly \$9 million in arts education projects. In total, more than 860 organizations in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico will receive funding. Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts generate, on average, seven dollars from non-federal sources for each dollar awarded.

Background

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, Slaughter is a national leader in the fight to fully fund the arts. She helped secure \$50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which supported the preservation of jobs threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support during the current economic downturn.

Each year, the arts industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity, and provides 5.7 million full-time jobs. Every dollar of NEA grant money also leverages at least seven dollars from other state, local, and private sources. Few other federal investments have such a widespread impact and magnifying effect across the entire nation.

There are over 1,200 arts-related businesses throughout the 28th District that employ over 15,800 people. These businesses and individuals play an extremely vital role in sustaining our local economy.

In July 16, Slaughter hosted NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman in Western New York bringing him to the Strong Museum of Play and George Eastman House in Rochester and the Darwin Martin House, Kleinhans Music Hall and Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo. More information on the visit is [available here](#).

Grantees:

Arts Organization		Funding Awarded
Buffalo Area Grants		
Buffalo Media Resources, Inc.	To support the Buffalo Youth Media Institute.	\$28,000
Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Society, Inc.	To support performances of American music with related educational activities.	\$15,000
Rochester Area Grants		
BOA Editions, Ltd	To support the production, promotion, and related expenses for new volumes of poetry, author interviews, and short fiction.	\$22,500
Garth Fagan Dance, Inc.	To support Conversations with Garth, a series of collaborative dialogues between Garth Fagan and a range of other leading artists.	\$15,000
Genesee Street Corporation	To support the Urban Youth Arts Education photography program.	\$15,000
George Eastman House	To support the preservation of films featuring the actresses Anna May Wong, Priscilla Dean, Miriam Nesbitt, Helen Gibson, and Mary Miles Minter.	\$40,000
Geva Theatre Center, Inc.	To support a production of Superior Donuts by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tracy Letts, directed by artistic director Mark Cuddy.	\$20,000
Rochester Philharmonic	To support the commissioning and premiere of a new work, including a composer residency, by American composer Margaret Brouwer.	\$10,000
University of Rochester	To support the publication and promotion of international literature in English translation.	\$10,000
Total WNY Arts Funding		\$175,500